



North Carolina Division of Parks and Recreation

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Michael F. Easley
Governor

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William G. Ross Jr.
Secretary, DENR

DEEP RIVER STATE TRAIL IS BORN

The Deep River State Trail in central North Carolina has been authorized as the newest unit of the state parks system.

Creation of the state trail came with Governor Mike Easley's signature after the General Assembly ratified Senate Bill 1431 late in the legislative session.

Authorization allows the state parks system to set aside

land and actively coordinate the project with other agencies, local governments, land conservancies, nonprofit organizations, private landowners and recreation interests.

The Deep River State Trail will eventually be a network of conservation lands and recreation amenities stretching along the river corridor from its headwaters in Guilford County, through Randolph,

Chatham and Moore counties to the confluence of the Deep and Haw rivers in Lee County.

In a related development, Triangle Land Conservancy purchased a 75-acre parcel on the river that will enlarge the first principal component of the state trail.

The tract on Water Tower Road in Chatham County is adjacent to 870 acres,

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PIEDMONT MST ROUTE RURAL, URBAN

The search for a preferred route for the Mountains-to-Sea Trail (MST) through the western piedmont from Stone Mountain State Park through Guilford County has come to resemble the tale of country mouse and city mouse.

And like the aged fable, there are good points to both.

The consensus among city and county planners, trail enthusiasts, state trails officials and the Northwest Piedmont Council of Governments at a July meeting in Winston-Salem was that one corridor through urban areas and another further to the north in scenic countryside will both be "preferred" for the time being.

"We've got an opportunity to deliver two very



PLANNERS POUR OVER MAPS OF THE PIEDMONT REGION TRYING TO DETERMINE THE BEST ROUTE FOR THE MOUNTAINS-TO-SEA TRAIL.

different, but positive, trail experiences here," said Charles Brommitt of the Piedmont Land Conservancy.

The issue began to crystallize as the group pored over detailed maps of an eight-

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Department of Environment and Natural Resources

From The Director's Desk

The North Carolina General Assembly has finished its work for another season, but not without taking a number of actions that hold great interest for the state parks system.

One of the most important was authorization of \$120 million through certificates of deposit (COPs) for land acquisition in the state. Of this total, \$20 million will be available for acquisitions by a newly established Waterfront Access and Marine Industry Fund. The remainder is to be evenly split between the Parks and Recreation Trust Fund for additions to the state parks system and the Mountains-to-Sea Trail and the Natural Heritage Trust Fund for conservation of species habitat.

Certificates of Participation are similar to bonds and were used in 2004 to acquire 3,000 acres for Lake James State Park and since then, to acquire land at developing parks. Some were also issued for facility development at Lake James. These certificates are backed by future revenues into the respective trust funds.

The new authorization likely reflects the legislators' satisfaction with how COPs were used in the past and their confidence in the Parks and Recreation Authority and trustees of the Natural Heritage Trust Fund, who will be authorizing the land purchases.

Land projects for the state parks can draw from both trust funds. So, this action gives us great ability to leverage our "buying power" at just the time we are busy developing new parks at Carvers Creek Sandhills, Chimney Rock, Mayo River and Haw River. There are also many potential newstate natural areas identified in our *New Parks for a New Century* initiative.

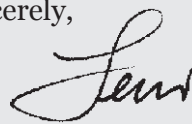
Also of interest is the legislature's decision to allow interest on the Parks and Recreation Trust Fund to return to the fund. In the past, interest on money waiting to be spent was routed back to the general fund. This is not a great deal of money since trust fund assets are obligated each year, but the decision fits the spirit of the trust fund, which is the major source for capital projects and land acquisitions in the state parks.

The state parks system also welcomes the Deep River State Trail to the family. We're grateful for the timely help of Sen. Bob Atwater, who helped shepherd the authorization bill through the legislature. This is a new concept for the system – a corridor of conservation lands and recreation opportunities that will be created in partnership with local governments and conservation organizations. The staff is excited about the project and already meeting with partners to talk about the details.

What's in a name? For Chimney Rock, Elk Knob and Dismal Swamp, it's "state park." The status of Elk Knob and Dismal Swamp was changed from state natural area to state park. They're both likely to develop in ways suitable for state park designation. In the case of Chimney Rock State Park, it's traditional for most of our parks to be named after prominent natural features, and our acquisition of Chimney Rock earlier this year for the developing park in the Hickory Nut Gorge made the name change practical.

It has been a busy year for both the General Assembly and state parks.

Sincerely,



Lewis Ledford

UP CLOSE AND 'PERSONNEL'

Edward Parker has joined the staff of Hammocks Beach State Park as a maintenance mechanic. He has more than 10 years related experience including work with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and as a charter boat captain. He is a graduate of Jacksonville High School and attended UNC

at Wilmington.

Katie Armstrong is the new land protection specialist in administration. She holds a bachelor's degree in environmental biology from Yale University and a master's degree in environmental management from Duke University. She was formerly a forest technician at

Duke Forest and has experience with The Forestland Group, the National Park Service and The Nature Conservancy.

Mike Nossek is a new maintenance mechanic at Jordan Lake State Recreation Area. He is a native of Germany and has more than 10 years

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LEDFORD PRESENTED NATIONAL AWARD

Lewis R. Ledford, director of the N.C. Division of Parks and Recreation, was honored with the NSPR William Penn Mott Jr. Award for Excellence Sept. 28 at the national congress of the National Recreation and Park Association in Indianapolis.

The award is presented annually through the National Society for Park Resources to organizations and individuals to recognize outstanding service to the field of parks and recreation and citizen action contributing to the advance-

ment of the profession and parks and recreation programs.

The award is named for a former director of the National Park Service. William Penn Mott also directed the state parks system in California.

Previous winners have included Rodger Schmitt, former director of the National Recreation Program, and Brett



Wright, chairman of Clemson University's Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism.

Ledford also appeared in August before the Natural Resources Subcommittee of the West Virginia Legislature.

He gave a presentation to legislators on the N.C. Parks and Recreation Trust Fund, including an overview of its history beginning with legislative act in 1994, implementation and impact on the state parks system and on conservation efforts in the state.

'PERSONNEL'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

experience including work with American Armed Forces Employment Services in Germany.

Michael Eisch is a new ranger at South Mountains State Park. Eisch attended high school in Neptune Beach, Fla., and earned a bachelor's degree in biology from Campbell University in 2005. He has worked as a teaching assistant in environmental science and as a teacher for the Johnston County schools.

Susan Carl is the new piedmont trails specialist. A graduate of the University of

Florida with a bachelor's degree in microbiology and cell science, she has been an assistant park manager for Wake County and an outreach coordinator and ranger for the Florida Department of Environmental Protection.

Sandra Fambrough is a new ranger at Goose Creek State Park. She is a graduate of Mars Hill College with a bachelor's degree in elementary education. She has worked as a seasonal employee at the park and was formerly director of Christian education at a Gasto-

nia Methodist church.

Nora McGrath has joined the staff at Lake James State Park as a park ranger. She earned a bachelor's degree in forestry at Southern Illinois University and most recently worked as an aquarist and environmental educator in Chicago.

Venus Taylor has joined The Summit at Haw River State Park as a housekeeping supervisor. She is a graduate of Reidsville Senior High School and has been employed at the conference center since September.

'PARK' IT

WITH A STATE PARKS
SPECIALTY LICENSE TAG



The Division of Parks and Recreation is accepting applications and payment for the first 300 license plates. There is a \$30 fee in addition to regular license fees (\$60 for personalized plates). Additional fees support conservation through the Parks and Recreation and Natural Heritage trust funds.

**Applications online at www.ncsparks.net
or write: Adrienne McCoig, N.C. Division of Parks and Recreation
1615 MSC, Raleigh, NC 27699-1615**

MOUNTAINS-TO-SEA TRAIL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

county region to find the most practical and desirable route for the trail that is to reach from Clingman's Dome far in the southwest mountains to Nag's Head on the coast.

"We want to draw the corridor down tighter," Darrell McBane, chief of the State Trails Program, told the group. "We're trying to decide collectively where we want this trail to go and what agencies and governments are willing to do to make this trail a reality."

Since the trial was envisioned in 1977, the corridor was very vaguely configured through the undulating farmland in Surry, Stokes and Rockingham counties before it was to drop south near Greensboro.

But in recent years, Forsyth and Guilford counties and Winston-Salem and Greensboro along the I-85 urban crescent have been very aggressive in planning for parks and greenways, including a plan to link the cities by trail. Winston-Salem is building four greenway sections this year.

An MST route through this area could take advantage of this trail infrastructure and the funds that come with strong public and government support. And, everyday use by urban hikers can give the project mainstream support.

On the other hand, scenic woodlands and rural stretches are often more desirable for hikers. And, rural towns and counties feel they desperately need anything that will boost eco-tourism as their economies suffer declines in farming and manufacturing.

"The whole reason for trails is that people want to get



DARRELL MCBANE, CENTER, CHIEF OF THE STATE TRAILS PROGRAM, AND PLANNERS COMPARE MAPS DEPICTING PREFERRED CORRIDORS.

away from urban areas," said Jane Priddy Charleville, the mayor of Danbury in Stokes County. "As far as our economic development, we think it's key."

A more rural route could also take greater advantage of public land such as Pilot Mountain and Hanging Rock state parks.

Ultimately, the MST is likely to offer loops and alternate routes that take advantage of all amenities, say trail planners.

That scenario began to emerge last year when a similar group chose a corridor in the mid-piedmont region from Guilford County to Hillsborough. The result of this planning is that the overall mileage for the MST has so far stretched from 700 to about 1,000 miles.

McBane said that the MST is evolving as a backbone of regional hiking and paddle trail systems that could eventually network throughout the state.

The concept of the MST

got a head start in western counties. A corridor was established relatively quickly with the abundance of public land along the Blue Ridge Parkway, in national forests and state parks.

In the east, momentum is building for a new corridor plan that makes use of flood-prone properties along the Neuse River basin. Local governments there too have been attracted to the trail's potential as an eco-tourism draw.

The piedmont region, with its many governments and multitudes of landowners, has always been considered more problematic. The Stone Mountain-to-Guilford section is the last to develop a final corridor plan.

It includes the counties of Alleghany, Wilkes, Surry, Yadkin, Stokes, Forsyth, Rockingham and Guilford.

There are other issues in the region. Rugged terrain presents an obstacle just east of

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NAMES CHANGE FOR THREE PARK UNITS

State natural areas at Dismal Swamp in Camden County and Elk Knob in Watauga County have been re-designated as state parks as a result of legislative action by the 2007 General Assembly.

Alterations to the State Nature and Historic Preserve Act also changed the name of Hickory Nut Gorge State Park in Rutherford County to Chimney Rock State Park.

The changes better reflect the status of those units of the state parks system, said Lewis Ledford, director of the Division of Parks and Recreation.

"Dismal Swamp at 14,344 acres and Elk Knob at 2,316 acres are certainly of sufficient size to be state parks, and they are likely to develop in such a way that suits state park status," Ledford said.

"In the case of Chimney Rock, it is traditional for our state parks to be named after a dominant natural feature, and our acquisition of Chimney Rock earlier this year made the name change practical."

The General Assembly authorized a state park at Hickory Nut Gorge in 2005. Chimney Rock Park, with its signature 315-foot rock spire, was purchased early this year and is among a number of land acquisitions that have brought the state park to more than 3,000 acres to date, and the land acquisition program continues.

Chimney Rock was formerly a privately owned attraction and maintains its presence as a popular visitor destination under a contract held by Chimney Rock Company Manage-



THE VISITOR CENTER AT DISMAL SWAMP STATE PARK IS UNDER CONSTRUCTION. THE SWING-SPAN ACCESS BRIDGE IS AT LOWER RIGHT.

ment LLC.

Dismal Swamp was created as a state natural area in 1974 with the help of The Nature Conservancy.

The park will soon be open to the public upon completion of a 5,600-square-foot visitor center.

The \$4.3 million development project also includes a swing-span approach bridge across the Dismal Swamp Canal, an exhibit hall and a

system of wooden boardwalks, decks and a gazebo for nature study.

Elk Knob became a unit of the state parks system in 2002 after the 5,520-foot summit was acquired in partnership with The Nature Conservancy. Other tracts in Watauga and Ashe counties have since been added to the park, and interim facilities are being built. Those include a ranger contact station, picnic grounds and hiking trails.

State parks and state natural areas are sometimes managed in similar fashion. But, the broad category of state natural areas includes some tracts not suitable for traditional state park facilities because of their fragile natural resources or because they are too small for development.

There are now 33 state parks, three of which remain under development and not open to the public. There are 17 state natural areas and four state recreation areas.



CHIMNEY ROCK STATE PARK IS DEFINED BY 315-FOOT SPIRE.

DEEP RIVER

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

known as the Justice Lands, acquired earlier for the trail by the state parks system with the conservancy's help. The additional land was purchased in July from the Powell family for \$549,300.

"We must be innovative when considering conservation and recreation opportunities in this part of the state with its fast-paced population growth," said Lewis Ledford, director of the state parks system.

"Triangle Land Conservancy has been an invaluable partner in developing this innovative state trail concept, and Sen. Bob Atwater's generous and tireless support was crucial as well during the legislative session. This authorization allows us to nurture other important partnerships all along the river corridor."

Long popular with paddlers and anglers, the Deep River about 30 miles south of Raleigh offers a corridor with a tremendous potential for linking conservation lands, cultural resources and recreation



COMMUNITY PARK IN CHATHAM COUNTY NEAR US 421 HAS BECOME A FAVORITE STOPPING POINT FOR CANOE AND KAYAK TRIPS ON THE RIVER.

opportunities. And, a state trail presents an opportunity to build destination tourism in a five-county region.

The Deep River State Trail would likely begin as a canoe/paddle trail with a series of public access sites.

Ultimately, it could become the backbone of a regional land and water trails system with connections to Greensboro, Asheboro, the N.C.

Zoological Park and Jordan Lake, and could eventually be extended down the Cape Fear River to Raven Rock State Park and beyond.

The division's State Trails Program has begun meeting with local governments along the river corridor to describe the project's scope and potential and to enlist support.

The river is considered nationally significant for its biological resources including a globally rare species of fish (Cape Fear shiner) and mussel (Atlantic pigtoe). Along the river's edge, scenic bluffs and rock outcrops alternate with high quality floodplain forests.

The Deep River was significant in the history and development of piedmont North Carolina. Historic points of interest include the House in the Horseshoe State Historic Site, which is an 18th century plantation, as well as a 19th century canal/lock system for navigation, ruins of the Endor iron furnace and the now-dor-



PART OF AN OLD LOCK-AND-CANAL SYSTEM ON THE DEEP RIVER NEAR US 1 IS AMONG SEVERAL INTERESTING HISTORICAL SITES IN THE AREA.

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DEEP RIVER

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mant Deep River coal field.

The Triangle Land Conservancy manages 720 acres along the corridor including the White Pines Nature Preserve, the La Grange Riparian Reserve and the McIver Landing canoe access.

The Powell tract was acquired with funding from the Clean Water Management Trust Fund and the Natural Heritage Trust Fund. It includes nearly two miles of stream frontage along unnamed tributaries of the river and is covered in mixed pine and hardwood forest.

"Triangle Land Conservancy was thrilled to work with the Powell family to add this

MST

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

Stone Mountain. And, there is the Sauratown Trail, stretching between Pilot Mountain and Hanging Rock state parks.

It would seem to be a natural segment of the MST, being well established and nurtured by the volunteer Sauratown Trail Association. But, it makes use of short-term leases across private land.

Part of the planners' task has been to determine criteria for selecting a final trail corridor. Those can include such things as local government support, landowner support, watershed protection, the existence of historical pathways, natural attractions and amenities.

Once corridors are chosen, state and local officials can start working to find landowners willing to sell property or grant easements needed for the trail's permanent location.

land to the Deep River State Trail for residents of North Carolina and out-of-state guests to enjoy for years to come," said conservancy president Kevin Brice. "The Powell family should be commended for their strong desire to enlarge the forestland reservoir here at the Justice Lands that is so critical for wildlife and water quality."

The Deep River, which provides drinking water for Chatham and Lee counties, is one of the conservancy's priority areas, Brice said.

Since 1983, the conservancy has helped to conserve 3,872 acres in Chatham County with outright purchase, conservation agreements and conservation partnerships.



DROUGHT CONDITIONS

EXTREME DROUGHT THROUGHOUT THE STATE HAS LED TO THE CLOSING OF SOME STATE PARK FACILITIES SUCH AS SWIM AREAS AND BOAT RAMPS. RECEDING WATER LEFT A MUDDY AREA BETWEEN THE SAND BEACH AND THE WATER AT LAKE NORMAN STATE PARK. KIDS TOOK ADVANTAGE OF THE OPPORTUNITY FOR A SUMMERTIME MUD BATH JUST A COUPLE DAYS BEFORE THE SWIM AREAS CLOSED AT BOTH LAKE NORMAN AND LAKE JAMES STATE PARKS.



ED COREY, INVENTORY BIOLOGISTS FOR THE STATE PARKS SYSTEM, HOLDS ALOFT ONE OF TWO HELLBENDERS FOUND IN THE NEW RIVER.



HELLBENT

ON FINDING A WORLD CLASS SALAMANDER

It's pretty easy to believe all the wild tales about hellbenders – that they'll bite, chase you off the riverbank and poison you in the bargain.

After all, they are hugely ugly.

Hard to believe that seeing one is a good sign.

"If you see these guys, you got clean water," Lori Williams said, holding up an 18-inch hellbender snatched in New River State Park on a recent hunt for *cryptobranchus alleganiensis*, one of the world's largest known salamander species.

"A lot of people may not care about salamanders, but if a salamander tells us something



about the water, then people pay attention," said Williams, a Wildlife Resources Commission biologist.

"A lot of people hate 'em because they're so ugly. I love 'em with their beady little eyes."

The multi-day hunt in the cool, clear water of the New River was organized by Ed Corey, the state parks system's inventory biologist, and involved researchers from several state agencies, park staff members and volunteers.

On this day, six searchers in dive suits and chest waders prowled upstream from the park's picnic grounds, dodging swimmers, lifting rocks and catching any critters that could be found, including some uncommon crayfish and mussels.

"We want to make sure the hellbenders are here each year," Corey said. "We want to keep tabs on them. We don't want to come back in five years and find they're suddenly not here."

Only two were found during the week, but that's not unusual for an unusual creature that is a federal and state species of concern. According to the N.C. Natural Heritage Program, there have only been 59 documented sightings in North Carolina since 1908, and only six since 2000.

This despite the fact that nearly every fisherman in Ashe, Alleghany and Watauga counties claims to have caught one of the water dogs, or snot otters, as they're sometimes called.

Folks being fond of fish-

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BIOLOGISTS SWEEP THE NEW RIVER AT THE PARK'S US 221 ACCESS.

COASTAL PROJECTS TARGET STORMWATER

By Sam Bland, Ranger
Hammocks Beach State Park

Imagine that a rainstorm wakes you in the middle of the night and you realize that just because it rained you will not be able to work the next day.

This is the reality for many people who earn their living harvesting the riches of the estuary. Stormwater that flows directly into productive shellfish waters will often cause the area to be temporary closed to harvesting.

And over a period of time, if the source of the stormwater discharge is not corrected, the area may be closed permanently. Thousands of acres of coastal waters are closed to swimming and the collection of shellfish after rainstorms due to bacterial contamination.

Stormwater carries sediment, nutrients and chemical pollutants. Too many nutrients create algae blooms, diminish water clarity and lower dissolved oxygen resulting in fish kills. Cloudy water slows the growth of shellfish and sea grasses and interferes with spawning. Chemicals such as insecticides can contaminate fish and shellfish making them unsafe to eat.

Along the coast, miles of roads and acres of parking lots adjoin coastal waters. In many cases, older construction techniques were used to quickly direct rainwater into waterways.

One example was an old parking lot at Hammocks Beach State Park. The lot at the former ferry dock used a sloping grade and gutters to quickly direct rainwater into a culvert pipe. The pipe discharged near an area designated as Out-



AN AGING BULKHEAD WAS REPLACED WITH A LIVING INTERTIDAL ZONE.

standing Resource Waters. Rainwater from rooftops of nearby buildings contributed to the problem.

This situation was not demonstrating good stewardship for a state park. To set an example of best management practices, the park was determined to reduce stormwater discharge from its property.

So, Hammocks Beach teamed with the North Carolina Coastal Federation and the Clean Water Management Trust Fund to reduce the flow of stormwater from the park area.

About 40 percent of the impervious parking lot surface was removed and a natural vegetated buffer was created.

Seven bio-retention areas and three bio-swales were created to neutralize stormwater from the smaller parking area. Rooftop runoff is now diverted into natural wetlands away from the estuary.

The project should eliminate the direct discharge of stormwater from park property except during major

storms such as hurricanes. This project will directly improve water quality in local waterways rated as impaired and temporarily closed to shellfishing, and will help protect the approved open shellfish waters near Bear Island.

Two other water quality projects are connected to the park's objective to protect and restore natural communities and improve water quality.

Intertidal Marsh

In 1999, the park was faced with the repair or replacement of an aging bulkhead that surrounded the shore near the old mainland ferry landing. While a hardened shoreline can prevent erosion it replaces the native intertidal zone and diminishes estuarine diversity.

Park staff used an alternative technique to reestablish a natural shoreline and create an intertidal zone.

The project involved removing 240 feet of bulkhead, re-grading the area and reestablishing over an acre of coastal wetlands. A small stone

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HELLBENDER

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ing tales, it was inevitable that myths would arise about evil hellbender habits of biting, chasing and poisoning.

None of it true, Williams said, although the hellbender will emit an ill-tasting secretion in the protective mucus slime that covers its flat head, elongated body and stubby feet.

It's also untrue that hellbenders eat young trout, she said. They prefer crayfish, and trout often eat young hellbenders. The salamanders are slow to reach breeding age in five or six years.

The lone hellbender snagged at the park's US 221 Access by Corey measured a healthy 18 inches long and was a female of breeding age missing one toe.

Hellbenders can live up to 30 years and reach nearly 30 inches.

The eastern hellbender is outsized only by a Japanese variation of the species, and there is an Ozark hellbender that's slightly smaller.

The New River is renowned as hellbender habitat, and the salamanders have been found in the Avery County's Toe River and the Watauga River.

Researchers expect that they lie under the rocks of many more streams, but a concerned effort to understand and chart their habitat is really just getting under way, Williams said.

"We expect North Carolina has some of



LORI WILLIAMS OF THE WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION MEASURES THE HELLBENDER BEFORE RELEASE.

the best hellbender populations in the world," she said. "We're just starting to understand where those populations are and how healthy they are."

On the riverbank, Williams logged the hellbender's vital statistics in a journal and logged the GPS coordinates of the flat rock under which she was found before putting her back under the same rock.

"Not all rocks are created equal," she said.

COASTAL PROJECTS

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sill was placed just foreword of the new shoreline to create an intertidal zone that was also planted with native spartina.

This "living shoreline" enhances the aquatic life and wildlife value of this area, improves water quality, promotes the public's understanding of the importance of wetlands and saves maintenance costs.

The project was a partnership effort with the Division of Water Quality's Wetland Restoration Program and Coastal Federation.

Oyster Restoration

Hammocks Beach has been participating with the Division of Marine Fisheries to

develop an oyster reef habitat along the rock sill of the marsh restoration project.

Oysters are not only important economically but contribute greatly to water quality and the biological diversity of an estuary. One oyster can filter 50 gallons of water a day, and an oyster reef can support more than 300 plant and animal species at some point during its life cycle. Oysters are an indicator species that reflect the overall health of the ecosystem.

With the help of Marine Fisheries, the park spread 250 bushels of oyster shells at the base of the marsh restoration site to provide hard-bottom

habitat and encourage natural recruitment of oyster spat.

Park staff and volunteer youth groups bagged additional oyster shells called culch. The culch bags were placed in the intertidal area to recruit spat that will then be scattered along the reef area.

The park is also a collection site for an oyster shell recycling program.

All three projects have great educational value and are incorporated into the park's interpretive marsh cruises. Outdoor interpretive displays will be installed to highlight wetland restoration, water quality improvement and the reef.

MAYO RIVER ADVISORY PANEL FORMED

The Mayo River State Park Advisory Committee held its organizational meeting in July at the park's office in Mayodan.

Seven members of the community have agreed to serve on the committee for terms of 1-3 years, and each represents one facet of the community, including local government, park visitors, conservation, business, parks and recreation, education and senior citizens.

The park advisory committee is to act as a sounding board for the park and for the state parks system within the community and to be an advocate for the park. The committee is consulted on principal issues involving facilities and park operations.

Other duties of an advisory committee involve enlisting volunteers, examining gift and grant opportunities, evaluating park programs and activities and advising on master planning.

A park advisory committee exists for every state park and state recreation area and those state natural areas with on-site staff.

The advisory committee members were appointed by Lewis Ledford, director of the Division of Parks and Recreation, on the recommendation of Park Superintendent Adrienne Wallace.

Ledford made a presentation giving an overview of the state parks system, its cooperating agencies and affiliates. Billy Totten, north district superintendent, shared his thoughts and experiences working with advisory committees and the important role this one will have with the new and developing park.

Wallace gave a brief history of the park's development and land acquisition and explained plans for interim facilities at the Old Mayo Park just north of Mayodan.

The park was authorized by the General Assembly in 2003, among the first created as a result of the division's New Parks for a New Century initiative.

During the authorization and land acquisition process that followed, the park has had broad support from the Dan River Basin Association, the Piedmont Land Conservancy and the local community.

The park has grown to nearly 2,000 acres and the Parks and Recreation Trust Fund Authority has set aside \$1.6 million for interim facilities.

The members of the Mayo River advisory committee are:

Sam Page, representing local government,



PARTICIPATING IN THE PARK ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING AT MAYO RIVER WERE: (BACK ROW, FROM LEFT) SAM PAGE, DOUGLAS SHUMATE, GREG MESSINGER, (CENTER ROW, FROM LEFT) LINDLEY BUTLER, PARK SUPERINTENDENT ADRIENNE WALLACE, KEVIN MOORE, OFFICE ASSISTANT CONNIE FOX, (FRONT ROW, FROM LEFT) DONNIE JOYCE, AND CAMMIE HALL.

who is the sheriff of Rockingham County, a 20-year veteran of the department and an avid outdoor enthusiast.

Douglas Shumate, representing park visitors, who operates an outfitter business in Eden and is a member of the Smith River Canoe Club.

J. Kevin Moore, representing conservation, who heads the Rockingham Soil and Water Conservation District.

Donnie Joyce, representing business, who is the executive director of the Western Rockingham Chamber of Commerce and retired from a 32-year career as an educator. He has served as president of the Mayodan Rotary Club and chairman of the Madison-Mayodan Recreation Commission.

Dixie Penn, representing parks and recreation, who is director of the Madison-Mayodan Recreation Department. She has served as president of the Western Rockingham Chamber of Commerce.

Cammie Hall, representing education, who is director of elementary education for Rockingham County's school system. She is a member of the Mayodan Rotary Club and the Eden Chamber of Commerce.

Lindley Butler, representing senior citizens, who is a retired professor emeritus of history at Rockingham Community College. He is a founder of the Dan River Basin Association and member of the Roanoke River Basin Bi-State Commission.

The park advisory committee meeting was also attended by Greg Messinger, land protection specialist for the Piedmont Land Conservancy, and Connie Fox, the park's new office assistant.

*SEVEN STATE PARK
RANGERS TAKE THE OATH
OF COMMISSIONED SER-
VICE IN THE CEREMONY
AT WILLIAM B. UM-
STEAD STATE PARK.*



SEVEN PARK RANGERS COMMISSIONED

Seven new state park rangers received commissions as law enforcement officers June 26 in a special ceremony at William B. Umstead State Park in Raleigh.

Superior Court Judge Paul C. Ridgeway of Wake County administered oaths to the rangers.

And being a frequent visitor to state parks, Ridgeway took the occasion to thank them and other park rangers and superintendents as well.

"The parks evoke fond memories for me as I know they do for many other citizens of North Carolina," he said. "Thank you for taking on the obligation of stewardship of our natural resources."

Receiving a commission as Special Peace Officer at the end of 17-week basic law enforcement training is generally regarded as the last formal step before a ranger takes on full duties in a unit of the state parks system.

During the training period prior to commissioning, a ranger is assimilated into the park and begins assuming duties in resource management and visitor service.



JUDGE PAUL C. RIDGEWAY SIGNS COMMISSIONS WITH THE AID OF CHIEF RANGER BRYAN DOWDY.

The rangers who received commissions are: Amy Elizabeth Duggins at Eno River State Park; Sandra Payne Fambrough at Goose Creek State Park; Brandon Phil Howell at Raven Rock State Park; Samuel Lee Koch at Crowders Mountain State Park; Gregory Shaun Purdy and Kandi Cheree Zinn at Kerr Lake State Recreation Area; and, Daniel E. Schewlakow at William B. Umstead State Park.

Also recognized at the ceremony were three rangers commissioned earlier this year. They are: Lance Montgomery Huss at South Mountains State Park; Justin Emerson Leonard at Lake Norman State Park; and, Erica Elaine Tunison at Jordan Lake State Recreation Area.

Lewis Ledford, director of the state parks system, reminded the group that a man or woman who has earned the right to wear the distinctive "campaign" hat of a park ranger is "someone who looks beyond the job to the mission."

"The bottom line is you're charged with an awesome responsibility of upholding the philosophies of stewardship and service," Ledford said.

Susan Tillotson, chief of operations, said that the day of commissioning is usually a very memorable one for young rangers. Tillotson and Chief Ranger Bryan Dowdy both urged the group to savor the moment and also reflect on the added responsibilities that a commission brings.

Tillotson recognized rangers that excelled in their Basic Law Enforcement Training classes. Duggins and Fambrough both earned top academic honors in their respective classes.

Howell was president of his class and won honors in fitness training, and Purdy earned a "top gun" award for firearms skills.

WINDSOR WILL LEAD FORT FISHER

Matt Windsor, a veteran ranger at Jockey's Ridge State Park, has been named superintendent of Fort Fisher State Recreation Area in New Hanover County. Windsor succeeds Sean McElhone, who was named superintendent of Lake James State Park earlier this year.

A superintendent is the chief of operations and administration at a state park or state recreation area with wide-ranging responsibilities for staffing, training, law enforcement, visitor services, natural resource

protection and environmental education.

Windsor graduated from North Forsyth High School and earned a bachelor's degree in parks, recreation and tourism management from North Carolina State University in 1997.

He joined the state



parks system as a ranger at Hanging Rock State Park in 1998. From 1999-2003 he was a ranger at Fort Macon State Park before moving back to Hanging Rock. He worked for one year as a science teacher in Forsyth County and joined the staff at Jockey's Ridge in 2005.

Windsor has directed natural resource management programs as well as environmental education efforts. He is a certified environmental educator and an open water lifeguard.

"Fort Fisher is an extremely busy park and one where balancing natural resource protection and recreation opportunities is an overriding challenge," said Lewis Ledford, director of the division. "Matt is an excellent choice as superintendent of the recreation area, having a well-rounded background in stewardship and prior experience at two other coastal parks."

Fort Fisher State Recreation Area and the adjacent Baldhead Island State Natural Area encompass 1,547 acres, including a seven-mile stretch of ocean shoreline. The park recorded 623,849 visits in 2006.

"Fort Fisher has always struck me as one of the most dynamic parks in the division," Windsor said. "With the demands of managing an area with multiple recreational uses, and at the same time, protecting critical habitat for endangered and special concern species, there are no shortages of challenges. I look forward to working with the community to protect and enhance the outstanding natural resources at Fort Fisher."



THE BOOK HAS SPECIAL FEATURES ON SEVERAL CAROLINA BAY PARKS.

STAR TELEPHONE BOOK FEATURES STATE PARKS

Star Telephone Membership Corp. in southeastern North Carolina has featured the state parks system prominently in its 2007 telephone book.

A 29-page, glossy "Community Pages" section in the book spotlights all of the state parks and state recreation areas with special emphasis on the Carolina bay parks that are in the cooperative's service area.

The section also includes features on the parks

system's history, safety tips for visitors and accessible facilities.

Lewis Ledford, director of the state parks system, was invited to speak to business and community leaders at Jones Lake State Park in Bladen County during the summer as part of the cooperative's community relations efforts.

Created in 1959, Star Telephone serves about 20,000 subscribers in Columbus, Sampson, Duplin and Bladen counties.

FIRE RESPONSE

THE STATE PARKS SYSTEM DISPATCHED 10 RANGERS AND ECOLOGICAL BURN COORDINATOR DOUG SPROUSE TO ROBESON COUNTY IN AUGUST TO HELP THE DIVISION OF FOREST RESOURCES BATTLE ABOUT 150 WOODS FIRES.

THE TWO-DAY OPERATION WAS THE FIRST SUCH COMBINED EFFORT OF THE TWO AGENCIES. THE RANGERS CAME FROM THREE OF THE SYSTEM'S FOUR DISTRICTS AND FROM AS FAR AWAY AS PILOT MOUNTAIN AND HANGING ROCK STATE PARKS.



N.C. ESTUARIAL MUSEUM OPENS SIX NEW EXHIBITS

Partnership for the Sounds, the non-profit organization that operates the N.C. Estuarium in Washington, N.C., has installed six new exhibits and a unique water garden dedicated to the Estuarium's volunteers.

The new interactive exhibits focus on global warming and sea levels, North Carolina's hurricanes, estuarine habitats, water quality and sustainable development.

The exterior water garden, created by artist Whiting Toler, illustrates the cycle of water as it runs through the varying terrains of the state. It was initiated through a donation in memory of two of the Estuarium's original volunteers.

"This is the first major exhibit overhaul since the Estuarium opened in 1998," said Tom Stroud, deputy director of the Partnership for the Sounds. "From the time we started designing the original exhibits to today, sea level rise and rapid development have emerged as major issues in the region. We felt it was important for the Estuarium to address these concerns and give people a sense of what they can do to help."

The partnership was chartered in 1993



THE ESTUARIAL MUSEUM IN WASHINGTON HAS SIX NEW EXHIBITS FOCUS ON GLOBAL WARMING AND SEA LEVELS.

with a mission to stimulate sustainable, community-driven economic wellbeing in the Albemarle-Pamlico region by promoting responsible ecotourism, environmental stewardship and education.

More information about the Estuarium and its programs can be found at www.partnershipforthesounds.org.

NORTH CAROLINA STATE PARKS

MONTHLY ATTENDANCE REPORT

JULY, 2007

| NC STATE PARK | July 2007 | TOTAL YTD Jul-07 | July 2006 | TOTAL YTD Jul-06 | % CHANGE (2007/2006) Jul YTD |
|-------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------------------|
| Carolina Beach | 73,392 | 324,750 | 65,234 | 296,896 | 13% 9% |
| Cliffs of the Neuse | 19,457 | 87,192 | 18,452 | 87,123 | 9% 30% |
| Crowders Mountain | 39,518 | 238,187 | 33,634 | 216,377 | 17% 10% |
| Eno River | 38,035 | 207,356 | 33,596 | 186,111 | 13% 11% |
| Falls Lake | 127,950 | 641,746 | 157,372 | 637,996 | -19% 1% |
| Fort Fisher | 185,941 | 574,064 | 134,099 | 429,251 | 39% 34% |
| Fort Macon | 168,498 | 739,758 | 223,996 | 813,672 | -25% -9% |
| Gause Creek | 20,958 | 104,020 | 17,739 | 93,477 | 18% 11% |
| Gorges | 24,863 | 80,964 | 25,051 | 65,706 | -1% 23% |
| Hammocks Beach | 17,727 | 70,278 | 0 | 59,589 | -100% 18% |
| Haw River | 2,285 | 10,694 | 0 | 0 | -100% -100% |
| Hanging Rock | 73,866 | 288,442 | 71,239 | 287,271 | 4% 8% |
| Jones Lake | 10,373 | 48,826 | 10,935 | 46,115 | -5% 6% |
| Jordan Lake | 189,749 | 814,323 | 173,307 | 639,901 | 9% 27% |
| Jockey's Ridge | 269,986 | 985,551 | 183,218 | 633,774 | 47% 56% |
| Kerr Lake | 213,120 | 736,604 | 259,312 | 779,172 | -18% -5% |
| Lake James | 50,586 | 240,562 | 90,302 | 402,533 | -44% -40% |
| Lake Norman | 87,107 | 206,346 | 66,216 | 310,368 | 1% -5% |
| Lake Waccamaw | 11,644 | 60,127 | 12,132 | 57,886 | -4% 4% |
| Lumber River | 8,916 | 52,432 | 8,879 | 45,870 | 0% 14% |
| Merchants Millpond | 13,264 | 83,477 | 17,964 | 111,011 | -26% -25% |
| Moore Mountain | 8,430 | 32,815 | 8,727 | 33,740 | -3% -3% |
| Mount Jefferson | 13,620 | 51,612 | 14,719 | 46,807 | -7% 10% |
| Mount Mitchell | 45,543 | 151,297 | 53,376 | 144,060 | -15% 5% |
| Morrow Mountain | 54,500 | 241,480 | 46,700 | 204,242 | 17% 18% |
| New River | 31,812 | 113,291 | 31,844 | 120,572 | -0% -6% |
| Oconeechee Mountain | 5,621 | 37,434 | 5,106 | 34,278 | 10% 9% |
| Pattigrew | 4,092 | 36,228 | 8,985 | 45,747 | -54% -21% |
| Pilot Mountain | 48,878 | 230,979 | 45,050 | 218,966 | 8% 5% |
| Raven Rock | 10,281 | 59,722 | 7,316 | 57,057 | 41% 9% |
| Singletary Lake | 0 | 10,182 | 4,410 | 22,476 | -100% -55% |
| South Mountains | 0 | 105,247 | 25,100 | 127,582 | -100% -18% |
| Stone Mountain | 64,920 | 278,838 | 54,944 | 237,824 | 18% 17% |
| Weymouth Woods | 4,204 | 29,474 | 4,035 | 27,651 | 4% 7% |
| William B. Umstead | 71,773 | 372,609 | 62,078 | 364,271 | 16% 2% |
| SYSTEMWIDE TOTAL | 1,990,909 | 8,436,907 | 1,975,063 | 7,845,372 | 1% 8% |



Our Mission Remains...

to protect North Carolina's **natural diversity**;

to provide and promote **outdoor recreation** opportunities throughout North Carolina;

to exemplify and encourage **good stewardship** of North Carolina's natural resources for all citizens and visitors.

*8,000 copies of this public document were printed
at a cost of \$630.00 or \$0.08 per copy.*

SAFETY ZONE

PLAN YOUR ROUTE TO ESCAPE FIRES

✓ At work and home, create a fire escape plan to be accomplished in two and a half minutes.

✓ Call your fire department or county fire marshal for a free building inspection and advice.

✓ Devise and practice escape routes for everyone and identify a meeting place outside the structure. Install escape ladders in multi-story buildings if they're needed.

✓ Regularly practice escapes and time them.

The Steward
NC Division of Parks and Recreation
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